

**OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY**

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[www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov)



August 8, 2003

Dear Chief of Police:

The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) is proud to announce a \$3.0 million "Sobriety Checkpoint Program" for local law enforcement agencies. OTS is offering local law enforcement agencies overtime grants to conduct sobriety checkpoints during the "You Drink & Drive. You Lose" mobilization periods in December 2003 and July 2004. Cities with a population greater than 25,000 are eligible grant recipients.

While California has made great strides in the fight against driving under the influence (DUI), alcohol-involved fatalities have steadily increased both nationally and in California since 1999.

Sobriety checkpoints are proven winners. Studies conducted in California and other states point to the fact that cities conducting sobriety checkpoints report substantial reduction in alcohol-involved crashes. Additionally, organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board call sobriety checkpoints one the most important DUI countermeasures available to law enforcement agencies.

This unique grant program is designed to reduce the number of people killed in alcohol-involved crashes. The grant program is competitive and all applications will be reviewed for cost reasonableness and number of proposed checkpoints. OTS encourages applicants to submit funding for as many checkpoints as possible during December 19, 2003, to January 4, 2004, and the period of June 25, 2004, to July 10, 2004. Those agencies that currently have checkpoints funded in an existing OTS grant are eligible to participate in this effort as long as the checkpoints are over and above the checkpoints identified in their existing grant.

To streamline grantee-reporting requirements, OTS will require grantees to only submit base year and operational data activity reports (two pages of fill in the blanks) following the December 2003 and July 2004 mobilization periods. There is no final report requirement. Please carefully read the instructions and details on the enclosed sheets.

To apply for the grant, simply complete the enclosed "You Drink & Drive. You Lose Mini-grant Request Form" and submit to OTS no later than September 15, 2003. Once OTS has reviewed all of the mini-grant request forms, successful applicants will be mailed the "fill in the blanks" project agreement form to finalize their grant.

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Trotter, Operations Coordinator, at (916) 262-0984 or Don Uelmen, Operations Coordinator, at (916) 262-1755. Be sure to visit OTS' web site [www.ots.ca.gov/grant/checkpoint/sobriety.asp](http://www.ots.ca.gov/grant/checkpoint/sobriety.asp) for copies of forms and updated information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Murphy".

CHRISTOPHER J. MURPHY  
Deputy Director

AT:kn

Enclosures

cc: Traffic Commanders